

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DHAHRA 00749 130725Z  
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CA-01 L-03 SCS-06 PPT-01 SY-05 H-01  
EB-08 SP-02 /039 W  
-----038424 130730Z /14  
R 130425Z JUN 78  
FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6303  
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
USLO RIYADH

C O N F I D E N T I A L DHAHRAN 0749

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MASS, SA, CPAS  
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH SAUDI MINISTER OF INTERIOR:  
JOHN MCDONALD CASE

REF: (A) JIDDA 4331, (B) DHAHRAN 0490

1. CONGEN IS PLEASED TO NOTE PRINCE NAYEF'S FAVORABLE COMMENTS (PARA 4 REF A) REGARDING THIS POST'S COOPERATION AND EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION WITH LOCAL SAG OFFICIALS IN MCDONALD CASE. THOSE FAVORABLE COMMENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN PERSONALLY RELAYED TO US AT PRINCE NAYEF'S REQUEST BY SEVERAL SAG OFFICIALS.

2. CONCERNING THE MINISTER'S COMMENTS ABOUT OUR PROVIDING PASSPORT SERVICES TO MCDONALD, WE GAVE THE SAG OFFICIALS FULL EXPLANATION OF THE REASONS FOR OUR LEGAL INABILITY TO REFUSE AN IDENTITY DOCUMENT TO MCDONALD DESPITE HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES AT THE TIME OF OUR CONSULTATION. AT NO TIME WAS MCDONALD ACCUSED OF OR UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES, A POINT WHICH WAS ALSO STRESSED WITH CONCERNED LOCAL OFFICIALS. CONSUL GENERAL PERSONALLY CALLED ON EMIR OF EASTERN PROVINCE TO PROVIDE THIS EXPLANATION WHEN  
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IT WAS LEARNED THAT MEIR HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT OUR ISSUANCE OF THE PASSPORT.

3. WE STRONGLY FEEL THAT SAG MUST BE INFORMED AS TO THE LEGAL AND TRADITIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICER TO THE U.S. CITIZEN ABROAD. WITHOUT THIS UNDERSTANDING WE OPEN OURSELVES TO THE SORT OF

CRITICISM THAT PRINCES NAYEF MADE DURING HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR I.E. THAT CONGEN ATTEMPTED TO FACILITATE MCDONALD'S ESCAPE BY ISSUING HIM IDENTITY DOCUMENTS TO WHICH HE IS LEGALLY ENTITLED.

4. REF A DOES NOT INDICATE WHETHER PRINCE NAYEF WAS PROVIDED WITH THAT SORT OF EXPLANATION IN RESPONSE TO HIS CRITICISM. IF NOT, WE BELIEVE AN EXPLANATION BY USLO TO PRINCE NAYEF OR HIS SENIOR STAFF MEMBERS WOULD BE HELPFUL. BUSHNELL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NEGOTIATIONS, PASSPORT ISSUANCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978DHAHRA00749  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** DG ALTERED  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 78 JIDDA 4331, 78 DHAHRAN 490  
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**Subject:** DISCUSSION WITH SAUDI MINISTER OF INTERIOR: JOHN MCDONALD CASE  
**TAGS:** MASS, CPAS, SA, (MACDONALD, JOHN L)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014